

**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Kremmling Field Office
P O Box 68
Kremmling, CO 80459**

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

NUMBER: DOI-BLM-LLCON02000-2014-051-CX

CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER: N/A

PROJECT NAME: Fraser River Bank Stabilization

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: T. 1 N., R. 76 W., Section 36; 6th P.M., Grand County, CO.

APPLICANT: BLM

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION:

The BLM is proposing to conduct stabilization work along the banks of the Fraser River to reduce erosion and resource damage from high water levels and bank deterioration from foot traffic. Heavy snow loads and associated runoff in 2011-2012 and 2013-2014 augmented erosion reducing the ability of river banks to withstand the energy of high water levels. A 2010 stream Survey completed by Grand County found that this segment of stream already had bank erosion concerns from public use and recommended willow planting and trail consolidation to reduce erosion and stabilize banks. An onsite field review conducted July 16, 2014 with the staff Hydrologist and Fishery Biologist found that stabilization work along the banks of the Fraser River would benefit the resource and reduce future impacts from erosion.

Willows would be planted along eroded banks in two sections of the river. Temporary signs and fencing would be installed to inform the public of bank stabilization efforts and to prevent damage to planted willows as they become established. Periodic maintenance of the temporary signs and fencing including additional willow plantings may occur in the future. A section of the bank would have a dead and downed lodgepole pine moved and secured along a bank section to reduce energy of the water during high water levels. A small section of a social trail on the edge of an elevated bank would be scarified and seeded with a native seed mix then covered with native vegetation clippings to prevent use by the public and additional erosion of the elevated bank. The social trail section would be re-established between 5 and 10 feet from the bank edge to encourage travel away from the bank and on a sustainable grade that does not add to bank erosion. The proposed work would be done by volunteers and BLM employees as part of a National Public Lands Day project.

PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW: The Proposed Action is subject to and has been reviewed for conformance with (43 CFR 1610.5-3, BLM 1601.08) the following plan:

Name of Plan: Record of Decision for the Kremmling Resource Management Plan

Date Approved: 1984 and updated in 1999

Decision Language: "...ensuring the continued availability of outdoor recreational opportunities which the public seeks and which are not readily available from other sources, to reduce the impacts of recreational use on fragile and unique resource values, and to provide for visitor safety, and resource interpretation."

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW: The Proposed Action qualifies as a categorical exclusion under 516 DM 11.9, I:

1. "Planned actions in response to wildfires, floods, weather events, earthquakes, or landslips that threaten public health or safety, property, and/or natural and cultural resources, and that are necessary to repair or improve lands unlikely to recover to a management-approved condition as a result of the event. Such activities shall be limited to: repair and installation of essential erosion control structures; replacement or repair of existing culverts, roads, trails, fences, and minor facilities; construction of protection fences; planting, seeding, and mulching; and removal of hazard trees, rocks, soil, and other mobile debris from, on, or along roads, trails, campgrounds, and watercourses."

The Proposed Action has been reviewed with the list of extraordinary circumstances (43 CFR 46.215) described in the table below.

Extraordinary Circumstance	YES	NO
a) Have significant adverse effects on public health and safety.		X
b) Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation, or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands; floodplains; national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.		X
c) Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources.		X
d) Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.		X
e) Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.		X
f) Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.		X
g) Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, in the National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the bureau of office.		X
h) Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have adverse		X

Extraordinary Circumstance	YES	NO
effects on designated Critical Habitat for these species.		
i) Violate a Federal law, or a State, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.		X
j) Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations		X
k) Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites.		X
l) Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species.		X

INTERDISCIPLINARY REVIEW:

A complete list of resource specialists who participated in this review is available upon request from the Kremmling Field Office. The table below lists resource specialists who provided additional remarks concerning cultural resources and special status species.

Name	Title	Resource	Date
John Monkouski	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Recreation, Access and Transportation, Wilderness, Noise	9/12/2014
Bill B. Wyatt	Archaeologist	Cultural Resources, Native American Religious Concerns, Paleontology	9/26/2014
Darren Long	Wildlife Biologist	Special Status Species	9/17/2014
Paula Belcher	Hydrologist	Soil, Water, Air, and Riparian resources	9/17/2014

REMARKS:

Cultural Resources: A Class III inventory #CR-14-14 was conducted for the proposed action. The project is a no effect, there are no historic properties that would be affected.

Native American Religious Concerns: Tribal consultation was initiated on December 10, 2012, and to date no tribe has identified any area of traditional cultural or spiritual concern.

Paleontology: Geologic formations sensitive for fossil resources are present, but will not be impacted by the proposed project. BLM standard “discovery” stipulation is part of the

environmental assessment and is to be attached to any authorization allowing project to proceed (attached).

MITIGATION: None

COMPLIANCE PLAN: On-going compliance inspections and monitoring would be conducted by the BLM Kremmling Field Office staff during and after implementation of the proposal.

NAME OF PREPARER: John Monkouski

NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR: Susan Valente

COMPLIANCE WITH NEPA

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 DM 11.9, I. This categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects that may significantly affect the environment. The Proposed Action has been reviewed, and none of the extraordinary circumstances described in 43 CFR 46.215 apply.

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL: /s/ Stephanie Odell
Field Manager

DATE SIGNED: 9/26/2014

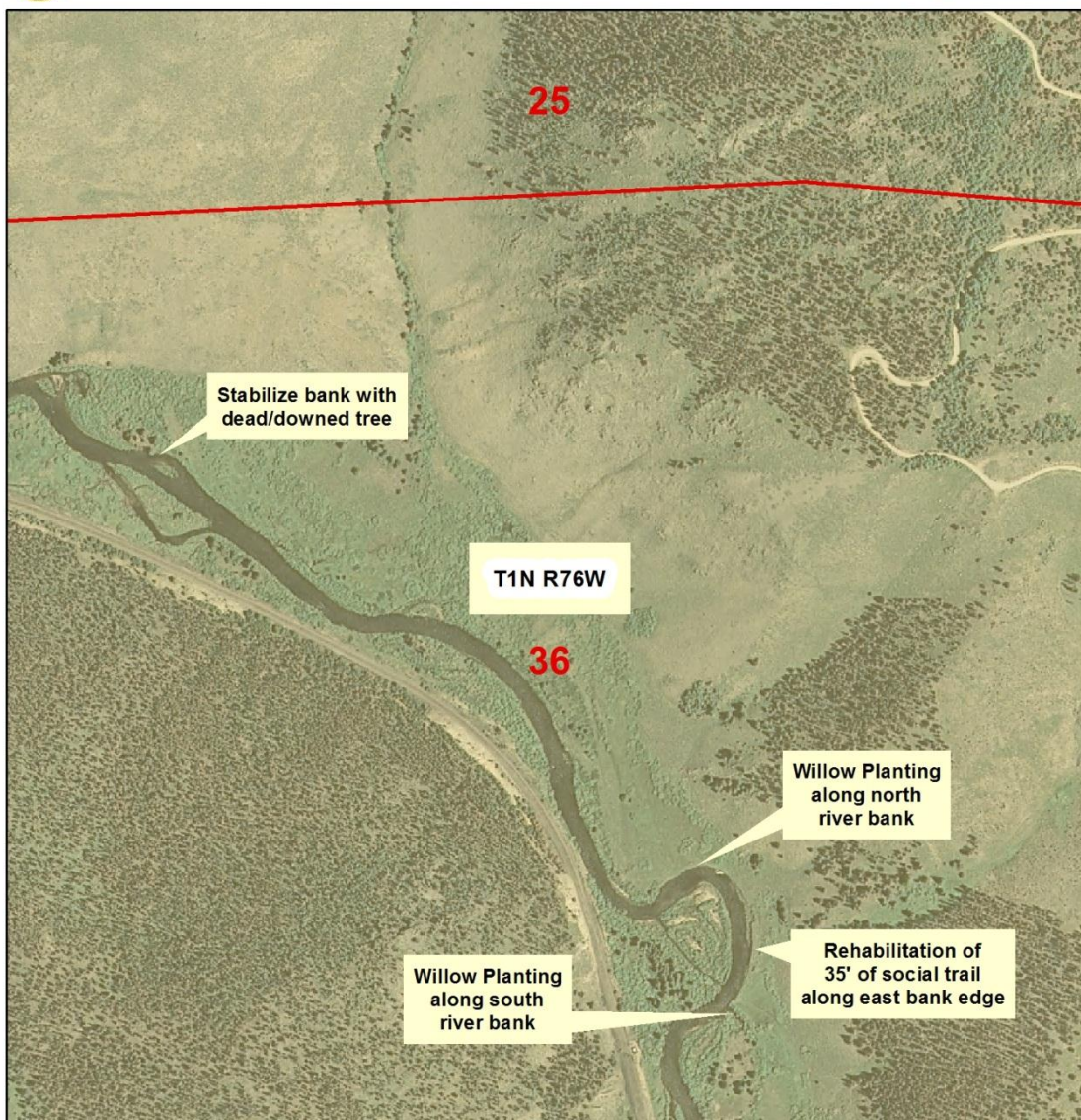
ATTACHMENTS:

- 1: Project Aerial Photo Map
- 2: Project Topographic Map
- 3: BLM standard “discovery” stipulation

Attachment 1: Project Ariel Photo Map



Fraser River Bank Stabilization



1:5,000



0 Miles

Reference Map
NW Colorado



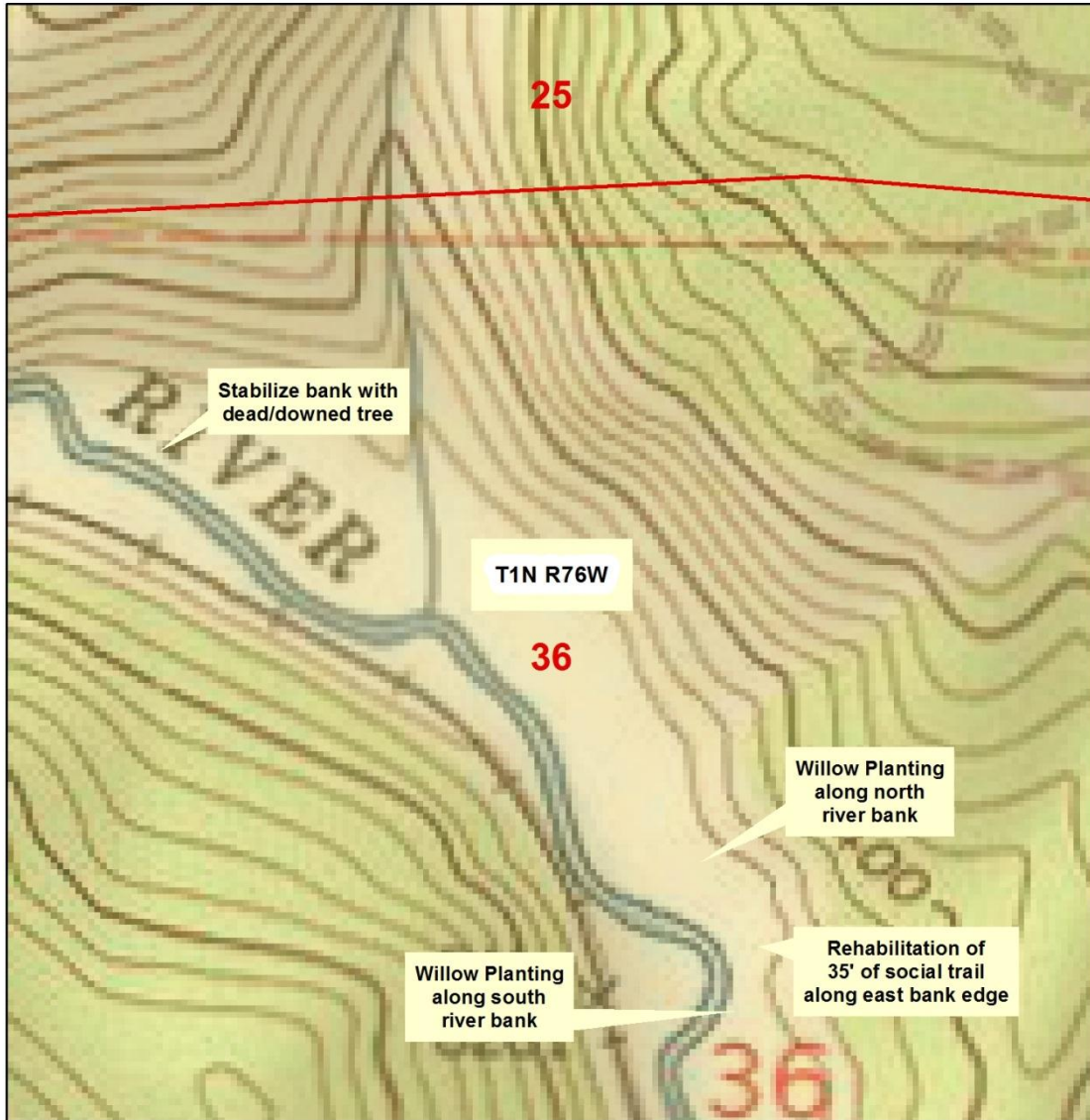
Legend	
Wlfrd_Prpsd_BikeTr	Bureau of Land Mgt
Comment	Division of Wildlife
2009 NPLD Foot and Bike Trail	National Park
Proposed Route Needing Easements	US Forest Service
Public Easement	National Wildlife Refuge
County Roads	Private
Major Roads	State
Sections	State Forest

No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual or aggregate use with other data. Original data were compiled from various sources. This information may not meet National Map Accuracy Standards. This product was developed through digital means and may be updated without notification.

Attachment 2: Project Topographic Map



Fraser River Bank Stabilization



1:5,000



0 Miles



Legend	
Wlfrd_Prpsd_BikeTr	Bureau of Land Mgt
Comment	Division of Wildlife
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Attachment 3:

1. The holder is responsible for informing all persons in the area who are associated with this project that they shall be subject to prosecution for disturbing historic or archaeological sites, or for collecting artifacts.

The holder shall immediately bring to the attention of the Authorized Officer any and all antiquities, or other objects of historic, paleontological, or scientific interest including but not limited to, historic or prehistoric ruins or artifacts DISCOVERED as a result of operations under this authorization (16 U.S.C. 470.-3, 36 CFR 800.112). The holder shall immediately suspend all activities in the area of the object and shall leave such discoveries intact until written approval to proceed is obtained from the Authorized Officer. Approval to proceed shall be based upon evaluation of the object(s). Evaluation shall be by a qualified professional selected by the Authorized Officer from a Federal agency insofar as practicable (BLM Manual 8142.06E). When not practicable, the holder shall bear the cost of the services of a non-Federal professional.

Within five working days the Authorized Officer shall inform the holder as to:

- whether the materials appear eligible for the National Register of Historic Places;
- the mitigation measures the holder shall likely have to undertake before the site can be used (assuming in situ preservation is not necessary); and,
- a timeframe for the Authorized Officer to complete an expedited review under 36 CFR 800.11 to confirm, through the State Historic Preservation Officer, that the findings of the Authorized Officer are correct and that mitigation is appropriate.

If the holder wishes, at any time, to relocate activities to avoid the expense of mitigation and/or the delays associated with this process, the Authorized Officer shall assume responsibility for whatever recordation and stabilization of the exposed materials may be required. Otherwise, the holder shall be responsible for mitigation costs. The Authorized Officer shall provide technical and procedural guidelines for the conduct of mitigation. Upon verification from the Authorized Officer that the required mitigation has been completed, the holder shall then be allowed to resume construction.

Antiquities, historic, prehistoric ruins, paleontological or objects of scientific interest that are outside of the authorization boundaries but directly associated with the impacted resource shall also be included in this evaluation and/or mitigation.

Antiquities, historic, prehistoric ruins, paleontological or objects of scientific interest, identified or unidentified, that are outside of the authorization and not associated with the resource within the authorization shall also be protected. Impacts that occur to such resources that are related to the authorizations activities, shall be mitigated at the holder's cost.

2. Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(g), the holder of this authorization must notify the authorized officer, by telephone, with written confirmation, immediately upon the discovery of

human remains, funerary items, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony. Further, pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4 (c) and (d), you must stop activities in the vicinity of the discovery and protect it for 30 days or until notified to proceed by the authorized officer.

3. If paleontological materials (fossils) are discovered during construction activities, the operator is to immediately stop activities that might further disturb such materials and contact the authorized officer. The operator and the authorized officer shall consult and determine the best option for avoiding or mitigating the paleontological site.

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DECISION RECORD

PROJECT NAME: Fraser River Bank Stabilization

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION NUMBER: DOI-BLM-LLCON02000-2014-051-CX

DECISION

It is my decision to implement the Proposed Action, as mitigated in: DOI-BLM-LLCON02000-2014-051-CX, authorizing to conduct bank stabilization work along the Fraser River to reduce erosion and protect resources.

Mitigation Measures: None

COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS & CONFORMANCE WITH THE LAND USE PLAN

This decision is in compliance with the Federal Land Management and Policy Act, the Endangered Species Act, and the National Historic Preservation Act. It is also in conformance with the December 19, 1984; Updated February 1999 Kremmling Resource Management Plan (RMP).

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT:

Grand County conducted a county wide stream survey in 2010 to inventory stream conditions and identify measures to protect stream and resource health. A news release identifying projects for National Public Lands Day including this project was issued in the local paper and was posted on the NIFC website that identifies potential projects. The local chapter of Trout Unlimited has undergone efforts in recent years to develop public awareness of water issues within Grand County and how the public can become involved in protecting water resources. Members of the local Trout Unlimited chapter will provide volunteers to assist in the bank stabilization efforts.

RATIONALE

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with exclusion under 516 DM 11.9, I: This categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects that may significantly affect the environment. The Proposed Action has been reviewed, and none of the extraordinary circumstances described in 43 CFR 46.215 apply.

ADMINISTRATIVE REMEDIES

Administrative remedies may be available to those who believe they will be adversely affected by this decision. Appeals may be made to the Office of Hearings and Appeals, Office of the Secretary, U.S. Department of Interior, Board of Land Appeals (Board) in strict compliance with the regulations in 43 CFR Part 4. Notices of appeal must be filed in this office within 30 days after publication of this decision. If a notice of appeal does not include a statement of reasons, such statement must be filed with this office and the Board within 30 days after the notice of appeal is filed. The notice of appeal and any statement of reasons, written arguments, or briefs must also be served upon the Regional Solicitor, Rocky Mountain Region, U.S. Department of Interior, 755 Parfet Street, Suite 151, Lakewood, CO 80215.

The effective date of this decision (and the date initiating the appeal period) will be the date this notice of decision is posted on BLM's Kremmling Field Office internet website.

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL: /s/ Stephanie Odell
Field Manager

DATE SIGNED: 9/26/2014